GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1898
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
MANUFACTURING OF 770 BARRELS FOR T-72 TANKS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in their Report No. 7 of 2000 have stated that the 770 barrels manufactured for T-72 tanks costing Rs. 67.73 cr. deviated from critical heat treatment schedule without consulting the original designer resulting in manufacture of defective barrels;

(b) whether 454 barrels valuing Rs. 44 cr. were still held in stock and the remaining 305 barrels fitted in the tanks were under process of investigation as on June 1999;

(c) whether the quality assurance establishment had passed these barrels despite tampering at reduced temperature;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into for deviation of heat treatment causing loss of crores of rupees and failure of DGQA establishments not doing their job properly commented upon adversely a number of times by the CAG in their reports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1898 29.11.2001

CAG in its report No. 7 on 2000 (Defence Services) has mentioned about the deviation from manufacturing techniques (from critical heat treatment schedule) without consulting the original designer resulting in defective manufacture of Barrels manufactured for T-72 tanks. The contention of the CAG report has not been accepted as indigenous manufacture of 125 mm gun barrels for T-72 tanks has been established in Ordnance Factories in accordance with the technology regime of the collaborators (erstwhile Soviet Union) and under the supervision of specialists of the collaborators. The deviations in the critical heat treatment schedule were made in consultation and with the approval of the collaborators and the same recorded in the form of a Protocol between Ordnance Factory Board and Collaborators. The DGQA establishment had accepted these barrels with the deviated heat treatment schedule as the same was approved by the collaborator as mentioned above. Therefore there was no lapse on part of the DGQA establishment in their functioning.

2. Consequent upon failure of some of the barrels, investigations were taken up in association with the Russian specialists which is being further pursued by constituting an Expert Committee comprising of Specialists from Director General Quality Assurance, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Ordnance Factory Board and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd which is continuing intensive studies. Consequently, improvement in quality of barrels has since been achieved after introduction of improved manufacturing process and metallurgical composition Measures for salvaging 559 barrels and not 759 barrels (manufactured with deviated heat treatment process) withdrawn from active usage are also being studied.